Blocking of websites

2114. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the country to block certain websites containing private weblogs;

(b) if so, the details of the order;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in contravention of Government's order some ISPs had blocked entire websites, instead of relevant weblogs;

(d) if so, whether any action has been taken against the erring ISPs; and

(e) the details of any other action taken by Government to prevent such blanket blocking of websites by the ISPs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Orders were issued to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) by Department of Telecom (DoT) on 13th July, 2006 for blocking of the following 17 websites:

(i) www. hinduunity. org

(ii) http:// mypetjawa. mu. nu

(iii) http:// pajamaeditors. blogspot. com

(iv) http:// exposingtheleft. blogspot. com

(v) http://thepiratescove. us

(vi) http://commonfolkcommonsense. blogspot. com

(vii) http:// bamapachyderm. com

(viii) http://princesskimberley. blogspot. com

(ix) http://merrimusings. typepad. com

(x) http://mackers-world. com

(xi) www. dalitstan. org

(xii) www. hindushumanrights. org/hindufocus. html

(xiii) http://www. nndh. com

(xiv) http://bloodrovaltriped. com

(xv) http://imagessearchyahoo. com

(xvi) http://www. imamali8. com

(xvii) http://www. rahulyadav. com

(c) to (e) It came to notice that in some cases instead of blocking the specific website/webpages as was specifically indicated in the Government order, the ISPs have resorted to blocking the parent website also. This was not intended by the order of the Government. DoT clarified the issue to all the ISPs *vide* its letter dated 20th July, 2006 and directed strict compliance by providing unhindered access to internet except for the websites/webpages specifically mentioned in various blocking orders by DoT. Explanation was also sought from the ISPs why action should not be taken for their action of blocking unintended websites/webpages.

Verification of prepaid customers for national security

2115. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current discussion on customer verification of prepaid customers is driven by national security consideration or any other;

(b) if so, keeping in view the national security consideration, in what manner this proposal would be hundred per cent fool proof;

(c) whether sampling for security verification be equivalent to suggest that, immigration should check cent per cent visa rather than ten per cent sampling; and

(d) Government's views on prepaid verification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per conditions of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) and Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences, the Licensees are required to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as a subscriber. As per instructions